

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an araB promoter, comprising: (a) introducing an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter into **[[a]] an E. coli** bacterial host cell that is genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an arabinose inducer of the inducible promoter, **wherein the system is encoded by an araE gene or araFGH genes**; and (b) inducing expression of the product with the inducer.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim **[[3]] 1**, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[5]] 1**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the araE gene.

Claim 7 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[5]] 1**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the araFGH genes.